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**BE EXCEPTIONAL** LEARNING CORNER

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## Training Announcements

### I/DD Statewide Provider Meeting

**August 11, 2022**  
**9:00 am - 12:30 pm**



The DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities will be hosting an Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (I/DD) Statewide Provider meeting. This meeting will be conducted remotely via our WebEx platform.

[Click here to register.](#)

For any questions, please email [DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDDLearning@dbhdd.ga.gov).

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** All I/DD Provider Agencies are required to have a representative in attendance at the I/DD Statewide Provider Meetings.

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### Georgia Housing Voucher Program Providers Bridge Services Training

**July 21, 2022**  
**1:00 pm - 2:30 pm**

The Georgia Collaborative ASO, in partnership with DBHDD is excited to host a training to review recent updates to the Georgia Housing Voucher Program Bridge Services. The training will review:

Bridge Services

- Description
- Rates
- Processes

Claims

- How to submit a claim
- Invoices vs Receipts
- Common errors and how to resolve

[Click here to register.](#)

For any questions or registration issues, please contact [GaCollaborativePR@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:GaCollaborativePR@beaconhealthoptions.com).

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**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Georgia Gathering  
 for Person Centered Practices**

The Georgia Learning Community invite Intellectual and Developmental Disability Providers to mark their calendars for the **12th Annual Georgia Gathering for Person Centered Practices**.



We are so excited about the 2022 Gathering! The activities participants have come to love including the cookout, campfire, a great breakfast, and plenty of exciting sessions to choose from will still be part of our experience. As always, there will be plenty of time during these events to learn from each other and share our stories around our Gathering theme of Shine your Light.

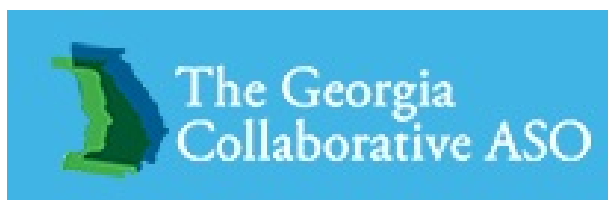
Our special guest for this year's Gathering is Tanya Richmond. Tanya is a creative and innovative Support Development Associate and we are happy to have her join us for the Gathering.

**When:** September 8th - 9th, 2022

**Where:** Unicoi State Park - Helen, Georgia

We are again using Event Brite for conference registration. You will need to contact Unicoi State Park directly for hotel rooms by August 8th.

You may register for the conference and scholarships by [clicking here](#).



## Batch Provider Community Webinar

The Georgia Collaborative ASO and the Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities (DBHDD) will host a Batch community call to continue the large group discussion on the following dates:

- Thursday, August 4, 2022 2:00 PM
- Thursday, September 8, 2022 2:00 PM
- Thursday, October 6, 2022 2:00 PM
- Thursday, November 3, 2022 2:00 PM
- Thursday, December 8, 2022 2:00 PM

These calls are open to the batch community to provide additional support and updates for the batch submission process. Great value has been found with this approach and we want to continue this dialogue.

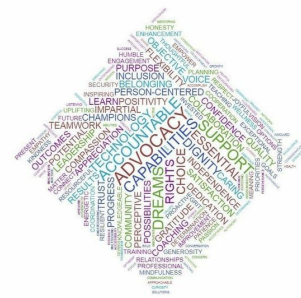
[Click here to register](#).

For any questions or issues, please contact the [GaCollaborativePR@beaconhealthoptions.com](mailto:GaCollaborativePR@beaconhealthoptions.com) for assistance.

## Featured Article

**HAPPY DEVELOPMENTAL  
DISABILITY PROFESSIONALS DAY**

**July 15, 2022**



Developmental Disability Professionals Day is observed on July 15 every year. This day is a special opportunity to thank the dedicated, innovative Developmental Disability Professionals (DDPs) workforce which is an essential support for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) across Georgia. It is an opportunity to recognize the work done by DDPs, who often go unnoticed despite providing services to some of the most vulnerable people in our state.

"DDP day about celebrating the impeccable work accomplished by the Developmental Disability Professional. At DBHDD, we support individuals who receive services- and we could not provide this support without our valued provider, family, and stakeholder networks. The single most valuable support system for individuals receiving services are those engaged in direct work with the people. DDP's are a critical bridge to ensure quality of services are delivered in a way that best meets the person's needs. The job of a DDP is rewarding yet challenging and requires many diverse skills. A DDP's designed plans and program development are critical to meeting the needs of those in services. Today and everyday DBHDD celebrates and salutes all DDPs for their invaluable and critical service", Ron Wakefield, Director, DBHDD Division of Developmental Disabilities.

The National Association for Qualified Intellectual Disabilities Specialists (N.A.Q.), the primary national organization recognizing developmental disability professionals, established the day in 2020.

"These professionals are a lot like other workers in the field of human services in that their work often goes unrecognized," said Connie Melvin, director of NAQ. "However, people doing this love what they do. They've found a passion for doing it. It is important to remember that these are incredibly valuable professionals."

Developmental disability professionals stepped up to face challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, and to find creative solutions to help the people they support stay engaged and connected, Melvin added.

"Now, more than ever, it is important to recognize everything these folks do," she said. "If you think about what people are sacrificing to keep people safe during the pandemic, it's coming at a price to themselves and their families. NAQ wanted the opportunity to formally recognize the work developmental disability professionals are doing each day."

DBHDD would like to encourage people who know, work with, or receive support from a DDP to individually recognize them today. DBHDD also encourages employers of developmental disability professionals to individually recognize their staff members; have celebrations for them, if possible; and provide them with or send them to training opportunities to grow their skillsets.

"Developmental disability professionals provide services to some of the most vulnerable people in our country," Melvin said. "They do so because they recognize that all people are an inherently valuable and an important part of the fabric of our communities. Developmental disability professionals are resilient in times of challenge, uncompromising in the provision of outstanding supports and tenacious advocates for positive change. They have played a critical part in advancing the rights of people with developmental disabilities and deserve recognition for their tireless efforts to this end."

For more information about Developmental Disability Professionals Day and NAQ, visit [www.qddp.org](http://www.qddp.org).

## DBHDD Regional Interpreters

DBHDD Providers, please remember to contact your Regional Interpreters at the contact information below to check availability before sending the request to the Office of Deaf Services.



The updated contact information is bolded below.

### Region 1

**VACANT**

**Interim Contact: Erin Salmon**

**404-450-6736**

**[Erin.salmon@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Erin.salmon@dbhdd.ga.gov)**

### Region 3

Persis Bristol

404-998-9541

**[Persis.Bristol@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Persis.Bristol@dbhdd.ga.gov)**

### Region 5

**VACANT**

**Interim contact: Jasmine Lowe**

**404-464-0786**

**[Jasmine.Lowe@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Lowe@dbhdd.ga.gov)**

### Region 2

Erin Salmon

404-450-6736

**[Erin.Salmon@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Erin.Salmon@dbhdd.ga.gov)**

### Region 4

**Kelly Spell**

**470-630-9393**

**[Kelly.spell@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Kelly.spell@dbhdd.ga.gov)**

### Region 6

Jasmine Lowe

470-464-0786

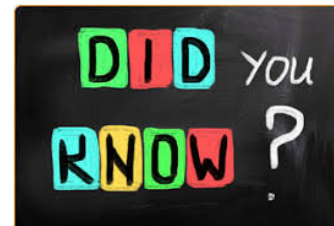
**[Jasmine.Lowe@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:Jasmine.Lowe@dbhdd.ga.gov)**

## Office of Investigative Services

### IMAGE ACCESS

Be sure to set a reminder to log in to the Image Application at least once a month to keep your access active.

If you forget and find yourself locked out after 45 days, please email [image.app@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:image.app@dbhdd.ga.gov) for assistance.



## Office of Incident Management & Compliance

### BH & I/DD PROVIDERS COVID-19 REPORTING

With the increase in COVID-19 cases, the Office of Incident Management and Compliance would like to remind all Behavioral Health (BH) and Intellectual and Developmental Disability (I/DD) Providers of the requirement to report via **Image** all incidents of confirmed positive cases and deaths related to Coronavirus for all individuals and staff, regardless of whether they work directly with individuals.



In the case of the death of an individual related to COVID-19, report the death as you usually would, and add incident type 922. Also report COVID-19 related deaths of agency staff using incident type 922. When entering a death or positive Coronavirus test result for staff, to protect their health information, enter the staff name as John or Jane Doe with his/her DOB.

For the I/DD population only, report exposures of individuals to people who have been confirmed positive for Coronavirus. Exposures are reportable, regardless of personal protective equipment (PPE) usage if the individual was in close contact with someone who tested positive. For instance, if people live together or interact at a day program, they are likely considered “exposed.”

***IMPORTANT NOTE: please notify visitors, family members or others when an individual served has been exposed to someone who tested positive for Coronavirus.***

It is not necessary to submit a separate incident report for each individual who was exposed or tested positive at the same location.

For example:

- If five individuals in I/DD services are exposed to a positive staff member at the same day program, it is not necessary to submit five or six different incident reports. One incident report can be submitted capturing the five individuals who were exposed and the one staff who tested positive.
- If six individuals at the same BHCC/CSU location test positive at the same time, six separate reports are not needed. One report can be submitted with the information for all six positive people.

If a COVID-19 case has already been reported by another service provider, it is not necessary for another provider to also report the same case.

For example:

- The day program provider should report instances where individuals were exposed or tested positive from attending the day program. If they have done so, the residential provider does not also need to make a report.

For more information on COVID-19 reporting requirements please review the previous documents which were communicated with the Provider Network by clicking the links below.

**COVID-19 REPORTING  
REQUIREMENTS 3/24/20**

**COVID-19 REPORTING  
UPDATES 8/17/20**

## Division of Behavioral Health

### Attention Behavioral Health Community Providers

#### Place of Service Codes 02 & 10



On June 10th, 2022 the Department of Community Health (DCH) announced via [Banner Message on the Georgia Medicaid Management Information System \(GAMMIS\)](#) website new updates to the Place of Service (POS) Codes for Telehealth. The POS description of POS code 02 has been revised and a new POS code 10 has been created as follows:

- **POS 02: Telehealth Provided Other than in Patient’s Home Descriptor: The location where health services and health related services are provided or received, through telecommunication technology. Patient is not located in their home when receiving health services or health related services through telecommunication technology.**
- **POS 10: Telehealth Provided in Patient’s Home Descriptor: The location where**

## health services and health related services are provided

The effective date of these updates is 4/1/2022. All necessary updates have been made in GAMMIS to accommodate either POS code submission on claims. The Provider Network can continue billing POS 02 and can begin using POS 10 immediately and as appropriate. **Previously billed claims DO NOT have to be adjusted.**

Click the link below to review the original memo sent to providers on March 21, 2022 from DBHDD regarding these changes.

PLACE OF SERVICE CODE  
MEMO

## Division of Developmental Disabilities

### NEW DEADLINE! 2021 NCI Staff Stability Survey



The National Core Indicators (NCI) Staff Stability Survey deadline has been extended. **The new survey deadline is July 31, 2022.** We appreciate the diligent efforts of the Providers who have finished or are currently working to complete the survey. The survey is for eligible Providers who employed Direct Support Professionals (DSPs) during the 2021 calendar year.

Each week, the Division of Developmental Disabilities sends DD Provider Agencies a request to participate in an important survey called the *National Core Indicators (NCI) 2021 Staff Stability Survey*. Please check your "spam" folder if you are unable to find the email invitation from [staffstability@hsri.org](mailto:staffstability@hsri.org) or contact Latonya Williams, [latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov) for assistance.

This survey focuses on the DSP workforce employed between 1/1/2021 -12/31/2021 and collects the following information: direct support staffing levels, services provided, job stability, wages, and benefits for DSPs serving adults (18 years of age and older) with intellectual/developmental disabilities.

Your agency contact has received weekly emails requesting your participation in the Staff Stability Survey. The email provides each Provider Agency with a unique survey log-in which will enable you to enter your survey responses into the database. **PLEASE TAKE THE SURVEY by July 31st to provide representative data.**

Questions? Please contact Latonya Williams, Waiver Operations Analyst, Division of Disabilities at [latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:latonya.e.williams@dbhdd.ga.gov).

## Office of Provider Relations & ASO Coordination

### Question for your Provider Relations Team?

**The Provider Issue Management System (PIMS)** is your online source to have your questions answered in a consistent, reliable and timely way! In addition to providing a timely response, the information we gather from PIMS will assist DBHDD in trending common concerns, developing FAQs, and informing policy reviews. You can access the PIMS site directly by using the link below.

PROVIDER ISSUE MANAGEMENT  
SYSTEM

PIMS is also accessible through the [DBHDD website](#) by hovering over the **"For Provider"** tab located across the top of the page. When the drop down menu appears, click on **"Questions for your Provider Relations Team"**.

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**Director**  
Anna Bourque

**Senior Provider Relations Managers**

Carole Crowley  
Sharon Pyles

For Provider Relations inquiries,  
please contact us at  
[DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov](mailto:DBHDD.Provider@dbhdd.ga.gov).



**BE WELL**



Georgia Department of Behavioral Health & Developmental Disabilities | 2 Peachtree St, NW,  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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